



PEACOCK

by the pupils, for the pupils
December 2018



Christmas Special

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LEICESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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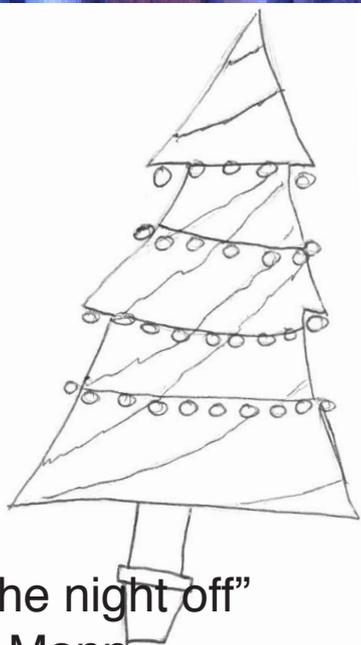
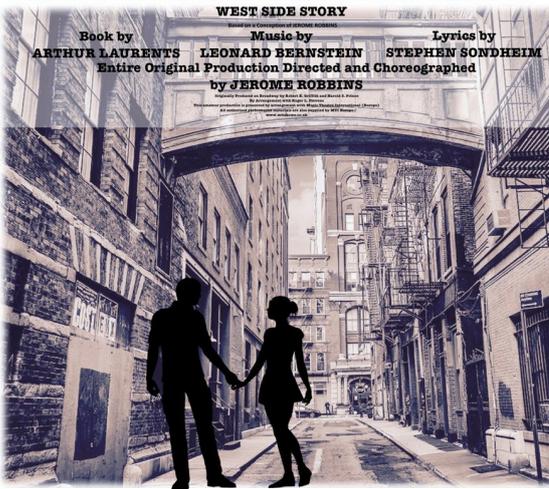
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A very merry Christmas from the Peacock Editing team!

With thanks to Mr Kidd and Mrs Kendall and all of our guest writers. Also, we would like to thank Mrs Hunt for allowing us to use her computer!

WEST SIDE STORY

Full Review of West Side Story next issue



"Santa takes the night off"
Thomas Mann

Open Morning

Open Morning, possibly the busiest day of the year, began at 9.00am on Saturday 3rd November. Students and teachers worked tirelessly to make this day perfect, consequently it was!

There were many activities taking place across the school. In A Wing there were students from all year groups creating wonderful pieces of art, as well as delicious goodies cooking in the Food Tech room below. We also had D.T. projects from different year groups out on display, which all the visitors stopped to “ooh” and “aah” at.

On the upper level of B Wing some Year 7s volunteered to demonstrate their “Magic Maths” to our visitors, leaving them - as well as other students - amazed at their tricks. Downstairs, various musical instruments were set out and First Orchestra was playing in the Recital Room.

Being the home of the Languages Department, the lower floor of C Wing was filled with many different activities from all sorts of countries and cultures. Language teachers had even popped to the supermarkets to give our visitors a taste of various places in Europe – it must’ve tempted a lot of people, as the food vanished rather quickly.

D Wing, possibly the most thrilling of the Wings, had a variety of different scientific experiments taking place, with a number of volunteers helping out. In the Junior School Science Lab, we even had a Fire and Ice show going on, which consisted of multiple experiments, from balloons floating to the ceiling to Mr Willis almost burning his hand off!

Meanwhile, several sports matches were being played by some of our best teams to display the School’s sporting ability to our visitors. We had trampolining, hockey and rugby being displayed on the pitches and Sports Hall.

Finally, it would be hard not to mention one of the key events that occurred – our soon-to-be headmaster, Mr Watson, had prepared two speeches for our visitors. It was wonderful to see and hear from the new Head before he joins the School, and we look forward to going from strength to strength under his leadership.

As the representatives of our School, we had tour guides showing the visitors around. The visitors would not have been able to find their way around the School without them. They took time to understand what was important to the visitors, and showed them what Leicester Grammar students can be.

On the whole, the day was a great success. Everyone who gave up their Saturday morning for Open Morning should be pleased with themselves, and know that they have contributed to making this school an even better place. Watching the whole School come together as one team was enough to make anyone feel proud.

By Jennifer, Dorothea and Vidhi



I saw this with my friend on the preview weekend in Loughborough and there was barely anyone in the cinema. So, I got some free trading cards and a quiet viewing, and I thought to myself: “Ha! I’ve read the comic! I’m the only one who’s going to understand this.” However, I was quite wrong.

If you have read any of the later Spider-Man comics, you will know that adventures in the ‘Spider-Verse’ are a common occurrence and also how violent they can be. I was surprised they were including the likes of Spider-Man Noir - who actually kills people - as well as Peni Parker, who no one’s ever heard of, but the film’s three directors pulled it off. The story follows Miles Morales: a confused teenager going to a new school as well as through what he thinks is puberty (which is mentioned too often) but is actually the effects of a radioactive spider bite. Meanwhile, the villain, Wilson Fisk aka the Kingpin, builds a portal generator to bring his family in another universe to him, but ends up bringing a load of different and colourful Spider-People instead.

The animation of this movie is absolutely eye-melting, being both sophisticated and graphical at the same time, with onomatopoeia riddled throughout for extra comical effect. The entire thing looks like a moving comic, and references loads of Marvel writers and artists throughout. The five other-world Spider’s - Spider-Woman (Spider-Gwen), a washed up, fat, divorced and detached Spider-Man, Peni Parker, Spider-Man Noir (voiced by the man, the myth, the legend Nick Cage) and the best of them all, Spider-Ham - are all suitably explained and comically accurate. The Kingpin isn’t touched on much, but he too is done very well, which is understandable considering what he did in the Netflix show, ‘Daredevil’. The movie is heart-touching with its character interactions and Miles learning how hard it can be to be Spider-Man, as well as hilariously funny and even scary. The only negative I noticed was it was difficult to understand what they were saying at a few points. Overall, this animated, cinematic, storytelling epic is a watch for a comic reader or an average Joe and is worthy of the MCU.

Stan Lee also stars in a cameo in this. He is a costume store owner who Miles goes to get a super-suit from and doesn’t have many lines. As you know, Stan Lee passed away on the 12th of November 2018, and was the creator of Spider-Man. I cannot sum up what he meant to the world and me in one paragraph, so I’ll just add the conversation they have in the film:

Miles: Hey, can I bring it back, you know, if it doesn’t fit?

Stan: Don’t worry, kid. The mask always fits.

By Thomas Mann



This is the second of the Fantastic Beast instalments, but may as well just be called 'The Crimes of Grindelwald' because it has absolutely nothing to do with beasts that are fantastic.

The plot follows Newt Scamander, from the last film, who is tasked by a young Dumbledore to find a returning character called Credence before Grindelwald, the villain, does. I think. Along the way he meets some of the old characters from the last film who help him, and other sub-plots are introduced along the way. It all leads up to a final battle scene where not much is resolved but it is quite cool.

Eddie Redmayne (Newt) and Johnny Depp (Grindelwald) play their roles fantastically. No one else does though. The other characters have their own little sub-plots like Jacob and Queenie, with their love falling apart, but there are others that just don't need to be there. Credence's plot was understandable, but the character is going to need a lot more development if we are expected to care more about him.

There are some fantastic beasts, but they don't play a part in the plot - like everything else in the film. There are actually a lot of plots and a good main storyline, but the way it plays out is awful. Nothing is explained and you don't know why people are talking to each other or what they are doing. It could have been a whole lot better if the plot had all fitted together, which would probably prove a challenge: the end result was just abysmal.

In conclusion, this film is visually stunning and manages to capture a lot of Harry Potter magic, even though it isn't about Hogwarts students. The only let down is that the plot makes absolutely no sense, probably even confusing to hard core fans - the first two words of the title don't need to be there.

European Christmas Traditions

German Traditions- Thanks to Frau Stout

The idea of the Christmas Market has originated from Germany. They have colorful stalls, selling gingerbread, Christmas decorations, Glühwien (mulled wine), Eierlikör (an alcoholic beverage), many different types of sweets and Stollen (a traditional fruit bread). Traditionally, children would leave their shoes at their doorsteps outside. If they had behaved well that year their shoes would be filled sweets, and if they were bad, the shoes will be filled with coal. Usually on Christmas Eve the Christmas tree is put up, gifts are exchanged and there are large family feasts. Also, people do a lot of baking, for example people bake Christmas biscuits like Weihnachtsplätzchen. There is a lot of carol singing too, for example 'Stille Nacht' ('Silent Night') and 'O Tannenbaum' (a German folk song). On the 6th of December St. Nicholas day is celebrated, and this is also an important Feast Day.

Italian Traditions-Thanks to Signora Douglas

All around Italy, people put up Nativity Scenes called Presepes in their houses and in the town, during the Christmas Period. In Italy, there is a longer Christmas period, which begins from the 8th December and lasts till the 6th January. On the 13th December, Italians celebrate the day of Saint Lucia (the Feast Day). On Natale, also known as Christmas Day, people in Italy celebrate with Panettone (Christmas Cake) and a family meal. In England, we eat turkey, however in Italy, the Christmas meal contains fish, rather than meat. As well as getting presents on the day of Saint Lucia and Christmas Day, Italian children also get presents on the 6th January. This is the day of Epiphany, when the friendly witch, the La Befana, visits Italy.

Spanish Traditions-Thanks to Senora Lopez-Correira

Around the Christmas Period, Nativity scenes are put up in homes and in the towns all around Spain. Three days before Christmas, Spanish people celebrate El Gorda. This is the day when Spanish people buy a lottery ticket for a chance to win a lot of money. A famous Spanish dish is Roscon de Reyes (King's cake pastry), which is normally eaten on Epiphany. Spanish children are very lucky, as they get two sets of presents during the Christmas period. They get presents on

Christmas Day as well as the 6th January, when the Three Kings arrive. During New Year's Eve, many Spanish people celebrate the 12 Grapes tradition. On the first 12 seconds of New Year's Day, everyone focuses on eating all the 12 grapes, that symbolize the 12 lucky months ahead for them.

French Traditions-Thanks to Madame Paton

Christmas Eve in France is a very busy day, because most of the Christmas festivities take place then. For example, there is a large family meal, where people enjoy festive Christmas food, like turkey stuffed with chestnuts. After the long meal, French people enjoy the magnificent and delicious 'La bûche de Noël', a chocolate log cake decorated with a small nativity scene on top of it. Traditionally people attend Midnight Mass church service, although it is becoming increasingly popular to attend it on Christmas Day. Children keep their shoes near the Christmas tree, into which Père Noël (Father Christmas) will pop some presents. Finally, on the 6th of January, La fête des Rois (Epiphany) is celebrated. It celebrates the arrival of the Three Kings, and there are usually street performances about it for families to watch. 'La Galette des Rois', a king's cake, is eaten. There is a little figure or bean (fève) hidden in the cake, and whoever finds it is crowned the King or Queen for a day.

Greek Traditions-Thanks to Dr.Vassiliou-Abson

Christmas is not as great a celebration in Greece as Easter, since Jesus' resurrection is very significant for the Orthodox. Nevertheless, special cakes (kourabiedes and melomakarona) are made and a roast lamb meal is preferred to a turkey. Presents are only exchanged on New Year's Day. St Vasileios is the Greek version of Santa. Traditionally, a boat rather than a tree is decorated with lights. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, children go from door to door singing carols and are given money and sweets in return. At twelve o'clock, the entry of the New Year is celebrated by smashing a pomegranate at our doorsteps and opening all windows to let the spirit of the New Year in. We cut the New Year's cake which we have baked the previous day, adding a golden coin in it. The cake is cut out not only for the family present, but for family away, reserving pieces for Jesus, Mary and any beggar coming to the door. Whoever finds the coin has the luckiest New Year. On the 6th January, water is blessed and distributed as holy water to all the families at church. In major ports, a cross is discarded in the water and young divers attempt to retrieve it.

By Svaraji Odedra and Aditya Mathur

AN INSIGHT INTO THE JUNIOR SCHOOL ECO-GROUP WITH MRS KIDD

What does the Recycling Scheme you are incorporating into the Junior School include?

It includes paper – this has been running for some time. Each class has a paper recycling box. Two pupils from each class ensure that paper is recycled each week. Only paper, which has been used on both sides, is allowed into the class recycling box. Also, it includes plastic - We now have a plastic recycling box in the Staff Room for the milk containers. Pupils are being encouraged to cut down on their use of plastic.

What sparked the idea?

Mrs Ashberry has been running an Eco Group for a number of years. I did an assembly last May about plastic waste in the oceans and the terrible consequences. Together, we decided to have an elected Eco Group this year. We have two reps from each of the Junior classes.

What changes are being made to school life as a result of this scheme?

Pupils use re-useable bottles and are encouraged to use the recycling bins

in the Dining Hall.

What are you hoping to do in the future with the scheme?

Eco Group are now working on our use of energy. They have undertaken a survey of the classrooms, when not in use, to determine whether lights are being left on. They have designed posters for each classroom, giving tips on how to save energy in the classroom. They will be doing an assembly this Thursday.

What impacts do you believe the scheme will have on the environment?

We are hoping that some pupils from the Senior School will form an Eco Group and together we could work towards becoming an Eco School.

Additionally, as stated by the Eco Group Review, their focus has also been on litter. There is now a timetable where each class takes turns to oversee litter picking, to ensure the playground is tidy.

By Shashank Bhandari

Your Christmas Cracker Jokes

What is a boxer's favorite drink?

Punch.

Why was the tractor magic?

Because it drove down the road and turned into a field.

What do cows do when it rains?

They get wet.

What do you call an exploding monkey?

A bab-oom.

Why was Santa not allowed to go down the chimney?

It was deemed dangerous by the elf and safety committee.

Why do cows have bells around their neck?

Because their horns don't work.

What do Pirate Reindeers have instead of antlers?

Cutlasses

Why do cows have hooves instead of feet?

Because they lactose.

What type of clothing do you buy a traffic cop for Christmas?

A "pull over".

What is the difference between a pot of glue, tuna, and a piano?

You can tuna piano, but you can't piano a tuna.

What about the glue?

I knew you'd get stuck there!

Why shouldn't you give a balloon to Elsa?

She will let it go.

Thank you for your contributions in the library

Interview Bonanza

Part 2

Interview with Mrs Lopez-Correira

1) How are you finding Leicester Grammar School?

I am really enjoying working at Leicester Grammar School. I love the general atmosphere and the students, who get on well and enjoy studying here. Also, all the staff are kind and welcoming, which makes me happy to work here.

2) How many languages did you speak?

I speak five languages: French, English, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese Creole (a language from where my mother and father are from).

3) Where did your passion come from for Spanish?

At 14, I started learning Spanish at school and soon fell in love with it, because I liked the sounds and the culture of Spain. I decided to do it for A Level and then I did it at university. I met my husband, who is from Spain, and really enjoyed discovering more of the Spanish culture with him.

4) Why did you choose to come to Leicester Grammar School?

I have wanted to teach here for a long time. I wanted to teach my subject to the highly motivated students this school has to offer, especially A level students, because Spanish is my passion.

5) Are there any trips you are looking forward to this year?

I would have liked to go on the Spanish trip, but I am really looking forward to leading the French trip to Paris, which will allow me to bond with students and teach them more about the culture of France.

6) What hobbies are outside of Leicester Grammar School?

I have a passion for Latin music, as well as dancing and travelling around the world. On the weekends, I love baking and playing sports with my husband and two children.

7) What kind of student would you recommend Spanish to?

I would recommend Spanish to anyone who wants to discover an exciting culture and someone who is very interested about learning the language, which is spoken in 20 Countries.

8) What interesting places in Europe have you visited?

I have visited France, Spain, Netherlands, Italy, Portugal and Belgium in Europe. I also would love to visit Germany, as I have never visited there before.

9) How do you feel about taking up the role as the new Head of Modern Foreign Languages?

I am very excited about my new role and as we have many talented language teachers, we can together achieve greater things. I am also excited of the other opportunities this role at Leicester Grammar School has to offer.

INTERVIEW WITH THE ACTING HEADTEACHERS

Mrs Ewington and Mr James

To start, how long have you both been teaching for?

CSJ: Fourteen years, all of them here at Leicester Grammar School. You will see that Mrs Ewington is more experienced than I am – this has been invaluable to me this year as I have been able to draw on that experience of my Co-headteacher; I am most grateful.

AME: Twenty eight years, of which the last fifteen years have been as Deputy Head Pastoral at Leicester Grammar School; prior to that I held responsibilities of Head of Science, Head of Year 7 and Head of Biology across three different schools.

What would you say your most memorable moment at Leicester Grammar School would be?

CSJ: Surprisingly it is a very recent one: giving my first whole School assembly on 24th September, shortly after being appointed Headteacher.

AME: Meeting Her Majesty the Queen when she opened the new building.

We understand that your recent promotions to headteachers was a very sudden decision. How would you say you felt when it happened?

CSJ: It was certainly quite unlike anything I have previously experienced. This is a role which is an honour to fulfill, but which also comes with a very significant responsibility to perform well. So, in short, I was indeed honoured to have been asked, pleased to be able to accept, and hopeful that I would be able to spend my time in the

position doing everything in my power to maintain the very high standards that this School is known for, including academically but also in other aspects of daily life. I am a former pupil of Leicester Grammar, and I care deeply that the School is as good as it can be, and that its members (including my colleagues, as well as pupils) have a positive and professional environment in which to thrive.

AME: Shocked and taken back. I hadn't even contemplated the prospect of Headship when Mr King announced his departure but on reflection, I suppose I have been fortunate not having to step up to cover for the Headmaster for any extended length of time in the last fifteen years. It is part and parcel of being a Deputy Head. It is a delight to work alongside Mr James; we have different skill sets which complement each other so we make a good team.

Mrs Ewington:

How do you feel about becoming the Pastoral Headteacher for LGS?

The enormity of the role is quite awe inspiring but the challenge is refreshing having stayed in the same job for so long. I am enormously proud of the School, its staff and students so it is a great honour to serve as the Pastoral Headteacher this year.

Have you always wanted to be a Biology teacher?

No, I also considered careers in retail management and forensic science.

Where did your passion for teaching arise?

I was inspired by my A level teacher who instilled a passion for the subject and post degree I wanted to pursue a career in Biology which wasn't routine lab work. Teaching was the obvious choice.

What kind of student would you recommend Biology to?

A student with an inquisitive mind and a good memory for facts. Biology is a subject which most students can relate to easily as it focuses on the natural world around them and life within it. It has fewer abstract concepts than other Sciences.

What do you think is your most notable achievement?

Achieving my Master's degree.

Are you looking forward to any upcoming Leicester Grammar School events?

The Big Bang Fair.

Do you have any hobbies outside of school?

Music and theatre.

Mr James:

Is being Director of Studies a difficult and busy job?

At times, yes. The construction of the whole School timetable takes me around six weeks, at least five or six hours per day, to get ready for September, and I normally do that job in May and June. My colleagues often pop in to my office to check I am OK at that time of year! We always seem to get there in the end, usually because I have to prevail on colleagues to be very flexible about matters – because I work with a good group of people they are always happy to help me in this regard!

What would be your favourite thing about

mathematics?

Reduction to one aspect is tricky. As a teacher of it I think my favourite moment is when a 'greater truth' is revealed to students, and you can almost hear the cascade of pennies dropping, as they realise, for instance, that all the work that they had done so far was only a very small part of a much greater whole. Trigonometry is a good example; it seems such a big topic in Year 9 (because it is), only for Year 11 students to later learn that all of that earlier stuff was only a very 'special case' of a much more vast mathematical discipline. Further Mathematicians in the Sixth-Form will look at Real and Complex numbers similarly.

Do you have an inspiration in life?

Two. My wife is my first, she has achieved so much, and remains such a wonderful person and source of positivity, despite suffering with a condition called endometriosis, which is often very painful. Earlier this year she required surgery as a result. During the recovery she was pro-active and positive. So she is my primary inspiration.

My second is Sir Kenny Dalglish. He is a now retired footballer who played for Liverpool (as you may have predicted). Alongside being the club's greatest ever player and one of its most successful managers, Dalglish always retained a very personable and compassionate disposition, demonstrated most ably in his contribution to the City of Liverpool's coping with the Hillsborough stadium disaster. For me, he is the archetype of how greatness need not lead to a loss of humility. Pupils will see him as 'before their time', although he managed Liverpool as recently as 2012, and his Wikipedia entry is a good read for any football fan.

What was your favourite subject at school?

Mathematics. Then Further Mathematics. Then Physics. Then History. That said, I

do not seek to denigrate any subject we offer: they are all excellent. When at School I tried as hard as I can in just about every subject, and found that more often than not my efforts were rewarded with success. I guess I would therefore encourage anybody to work hard!

[Do you have a favourite thing about Leicester Grammar School?](#)

As with Mathematics it is difficult to pin down just one thing. But it is the people here I will go for – pupils, teaching colleagues and non-teaching colleagues alike. It is a place that has always married being professional and productive with being friendly. I hope I can help that to continue.

[Do you have any hobbies that you enjoy outside of school?](#)

I'm not heavily into any one particular thing, I am more one who tends to dabble. I am fairly poor at Golf, but I do enjoy a round with Messrs Picknell, Willis and Gower every so often. Also, and it is not a 'hobby' as such, but I do a lot of work with the UKMT (who set the Maths Challenges). I'm very grateful to Dr Crawford for helping me to progress that side of my career.

[Did you consider any other careers other than teaching?](#)

CSJ: Not especially. Police was second, but a distant second. I owe a mention to my GCSE and A-Level Maths teacher, Mrs Sains, for it was during one of her Year 10 lessons in 1997 when I realised I thought that I would enjoy being a teacher. This probably means that she is also an inspiration, to hark back to an earlier question.

The interview Team:

Aditya Mathur, Shashank Bhandari, Lucas Hoffmann and Svaraji Odedra with Harry Khalid and Daniel Sundaram

House Music: An outside review

On the 10th of October at 7pm, I went along to watch House Music as my mother is Head of Dukes, so I didn't have much choice. It's not as if I didn't want to go, though; I must admit it is quite amazing seeing all of LGS's musical talent in one place. Moritz (from Dukes!) on the piano gets more exciting every time you experience it and the Leech duo performed a great Violin duet. However, they weren't all perfect: Dukes used a lot of the same musicians in different pieces, Masters got their timings wrong, VC's didn't have many actual musicians and Judges, remember for next time - there is no point in having a full orchestra if your instruments are out of tune. However, these errors were massively overshadowed by the talent and teamwork shown on the night. In the end, it was decided that Masters won, Dukes came second, Judges took third and VC's finished last.

Thomas Mann

“He who has
not Christmas
in his heart
will never find
it under a
tree.”

Roy L. Smith